

Submitter: Sophie Els
On Behalf Of: Kathy Bridges
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2979

The following public testimonial was provided by Kathy Bridges, with Santiam Valley Ranch in Turner, as part of their Farmer and Rancher Disaster Resilience Grant Report.

“To me, this is the first effort by the State of Oregon to assist me in my ranching lifestyle. While Oregon wants to champion local/regional food production, it is very hard for historically underserved and small operators to achieve even the simplest efforts. I am a single, widowed woman who has farmed for 44 years. Farmers pick up the pieces and carry on without anyone knowing or recognizing how significant challenges can be on our lives and farming/ranching production. This program set me off on a new course, allowing me to finally achieve some of my long-term goals of using my own organic fertilizer and to finally to be able to implement rotational grazing. I feel more empowered and resilient and thus the farm is more empowered and resilient--basically because Oregon recognized me and believed in me. I hope this program can be continued, and perhaps expanded, to assist other small farm/ranch operations.”